



Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division – Region 2



DECEMBER 13, 2012

Brule/Buffalo Counties

Steve Rossow



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

With the cold weather the river is froze over and has put an end to the shore fishing and boat fishing. Now the ice fishermen are waiting for the ice to get thick enough to go ice fishing. A reminder that the area between the railroad bridge and I-90 Interstate bridge are closed to fishing from December 1st to April 31st, except shore fishing is allowed on the Brule County side.



Hunting Report:

The pheasant hunting has been spotty bird numbers are down and hunters are having a tough time finding birds. The river has a good number of ducks and geese. Low Plains middle zone for duck hunting closed December 11th. The goose season for Unit 1 closes December 16th.

Campbell County

Doug DeLaRoi



Fishing Report See *Missouri River report below*



Hunting Report: -

Corson/Dewey Counties

Shawn Madison:



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below



Hunting Report:

HUNTING:

Charles Mix/Douglas Counties

Jeff Martin



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below



Hunting Report:

Gregory County

Hans Walleser



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below



Hunting Report:

Hyde/Hand Counties

Cory Flor



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

The lakes in the area all froze over last weekend with the blizzard and below zero temperatures that we had. If venturing onto the ice please be careful and check the ice thickness every so often as there is often thin spots this time of year.



Hunting Report:

Pheasant hunting is slow. There are still a few hunters but they aren't having much success. There is a good number of grouse and prairie chickens around. The water all froze up over the weekend which forced the waterfowl to leave. Remember, the low plains middle zone waterfowl season ends on Dec. 11 and the unit 1 canada goose season ends on Dec. 16.

Hughes County

Mike Thorson/John Murphy



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below.*



Hunting Report:

Hunting

Pheasant hunting still continues to be challenging on finding numbers of birds. Hunters are reminded to have permission to hunt on private land and are asked to review the road hunting rules if they plan to road hunt for pheasants. Some geese left in the pocket area but a lot left. Some geese are being hunted north of Pierre, hunters picking up a few geese and ducks. . Weather has been too nice for decent waterfowl hunting.

Jones County

Dan Altman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below



Hunting Report:

Jones County Hunting - The recent cold temperatures and snow have pushed pheasants almost exclusively into sloughs, shelterbelts and other heavy cover. Expect pheasants to be very wild with a high hen to rooster ratio. Some decent pass shooting opportunity for grouse can be found in isolated areas of the county.

Lyman County

Dan Altman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below



Hunting Report

Lyman County Hunting - The recent cold temperatures and snow have pushed pheasants almost exclusively into sloughs, shelterbelts and other heavy cover. Expect pheasants to be very wild with a high hen to rooster ratio. Some hunters report seeing hen to rooster ratios of 50:1.

Potter County

Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below:*

Fishing:

Potts Dam – No fishing activity. Lake is mostly iced up, but not thick enough to walk on

Lake Hurley – No fishing activity. Lake is partially frozen

Simon Dam – No fishing activity. Lake is iced over but the ice is still pretty thin.



Hunting Report: Hunting:

Ducks and Geese – There have been no new birds moving into the area. The potholes are frozen over with smaller lakes partially open

Pheasant hunting has slowed down quite a bit. Hunters are struggling to get within range of the birds.

East River Deer season is. The antlerless season will open up again from December 29, 2012 – January 6, 2013. All antlerless rifle tags carry over to the extended season, but the “any deer” and “any whitetail deer” tags are now void and do not carry over.

Muzzleloader deer season is open.

Stanley County

Josh Carr



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.



Hunting Report:

Sully County

Andy Schmahl



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Cottonwood: No Activity. Cottonwood has finally frozen over for what may be the last time until spring. It may take several days to get thick enough to fish on.



Hunting Report:

Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties

Matt Hill



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Fishing -

Things have been quiet on area lakes, they are covered with ice now, but I don't know if it's good enough to start ice fishing just yet. I recommend trying Roosevelt for almost any fish, Rahn for pike or bass, Dog Ear for perch, King Dam for perch or crappie and Beaulieu for Bluegill. Most fishermen are going to the Missouri River, which sounds like it has been pretty good.



Hunting -

Pheasant harvest in the Winner area has been down from last year. There are plenty of opportunities to find some late season pheasants around. Keep in mind the birds are going to be a little harder to knock down and will hold tighter with the latest snow fall. I recommend using steel shot #3 and lead shot #4. Waterfowl reminders; use non-toxic shot, get your migratory bird certification and your federal waterfowl stamp. There are decent numbers of waterfowl around, I recommend trying Dog Ear Lake or Snow Dam. Canada Geese season closes December 16th for Tripp, Todd and Mellette County. White-Fronted Geese and Light Geese seasons close December 23rd statewide. Deer harvest has been good and it shouldn't be a problem to find late season deer in Tripp, Todd or Mellette Counties. The west river Bobcat season runs from December 8th - February 15th. Sportsmen who are 16 and older need to have a state furbearer's license to either shoot or trap bobcats. Bobcats need to be checked in with a SDGF&P representative within 5 days of harvest

Walworth County

Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below



Hunting Report:

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East River Deer season is. The antlerless season will open up again from December 29, 2012 – January 6, 2013. All antlerless rifle tags carry over to the extended season, but the “any deer” and “any whitetail deer” tags are now void and do not carry over.

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Missouri River Reservoirs Fishing Report

Lake Oahe *Kyle Potter*

The walleye/sauger/hybrid regulation has changed to allow higher harvest of the abundant walleye during this time of low availability food within Lake Oahe. The regulation is the following: 8 walleye/sauger/hybrids daily of which up to 4 can be greater than 15 inches with only 1 of which can be greater than 20 inches. The possession limit will be 24 fish which may not be possessed without 3 or more of fishing. The higher daily and possession limits will allow anglers to harvest a greater number of fish which may possibly die do the lack of food within the lake.

Ice is beginning to form in some of the back bays when temperatures dip low, but so far all landings are open for boat traffic.

Pollock/Mobridge – Fishing pressure is low with a few boats out on nicer days. Success is fair in the upper portion of Lake Oahe with the Grand, Moreau River arms, and old railroad grade doing the best. Anglers are catching walleye, northern pike, and crappie. Minnow rigs, jigs and vertical jigging around the bridges are producing fish. Catches of small walleye are common. Best depths have been 20 to 35 feet.

Gettysburg – Fishing pressure is low with success is fair in the middle portion of Lake Oahe with anglers are doing well catching small walleye, northern pike, and smallmouth bass. Minnow rigs and jigs the common ways to catch fish. The best depth has been 20 to 40+ feet of water.

Pierre – Fishing pressure is low with anglers are doing fair throughout the region with the Cheyenne River Arm doing the best. Anglers are fishing with minnow rigs and jigs for walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish. Small fish have been the most common fish caught with an occasional large fish. Preferred depths are 20 to 40 feet of water.

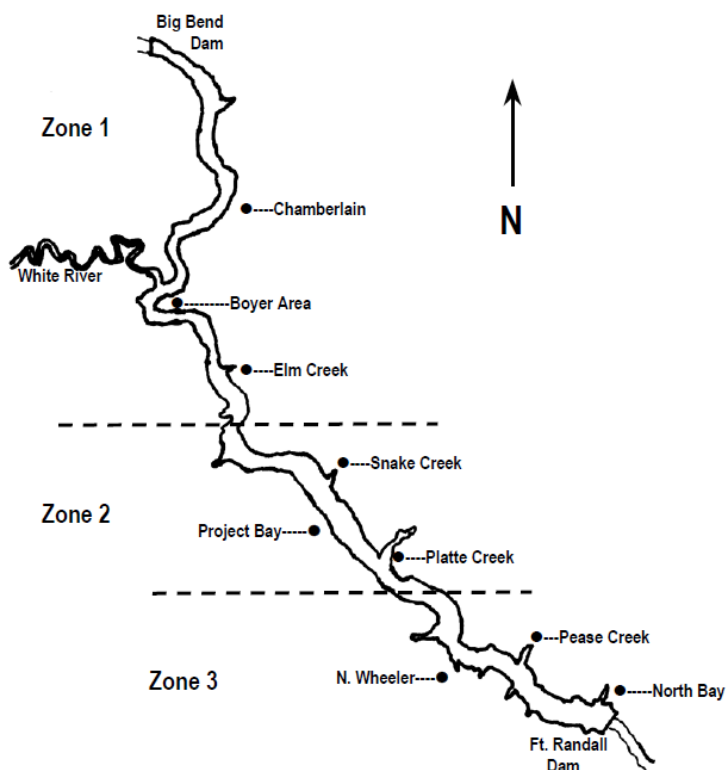
Lake Sharpe

Ice is beginning to form in some of the back bays when the temperature dips low, but so far all landings are open for boat traffic. Fishing activity is currently low in the **Pierre** area and fishing success is fair to good throughout Lake Sharpe. Anglers are fishing by boat around the bridges, Farm Island flats, and Antelope Creek areas. Shore anglers are catching a few walleye, channel catfish, and smallmouth bass in the tailrace with plugs and plastic baits on jigs. The fishing is fair in the **West Bend** region with catches of walleye and smallmouth bass. Anglers are doing best with minnow rigs and jigs in 20 to 40 feet.

Reminder the 15 inch minimum size restrictions for walleye/sauger are in effect from September 1st through June 30th each year on Lake Sharpe. The one walleye/sauger over 20 inches daily still remains in effect year round.

Lake Francis Case

Rachel Tribble



Zone 1 – The recent icing over of the river in this area has put a stop to fishing activity for the time being.

*** Reminder: The area between the railroad bridge and I-90 bridge causeway in Brule and Lyman counties is closed to fishing Dec. 1 – April 30, except shore fishing is allowed from the Brule county side.**

Zone 2 – No fishing has been observed in this area lately.

Zone 3 – No fishing has been observed in this area lately.